

What is claimed is

1. A device (12) for entering names into a navigation system (12),  
having a storage unit to store names of at least one category of geographic  
information,  
  
having an input unit (32) for selecting a name,  
  
having a display unit (44) to support the entry,  
  
and having a control unit which causes a selectable name (60) to be displayed as a  
suggestion on the display unit (44) as a function of a specified sorting criterion for  
the stored names of a category and as a function of earlier entries for the selection  
of the name to be entered,  
  
wherein the selection probability of the names is used as a sorting criterion in the  
control unit,  
  
and at least one statistically collected information item or an information item  
recorded by measurement concerning the local characteristics of the area  
designated by the name is used as a measure for the selection probability.
2. The device (12) according to Claim 1,  
wherein the population of the country designated by the country name is used as a  
measure of the selection probability of a country name.
3. The device (12) according to Claim 1 or 2,  
wherein the population of the city or the town designated by the name or the town  
(S104) designated by the name is used as a measure of the selection probability of  
a city or town name.

4. The device (12) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the number of residents and/or the length of the street and/or the number of house numbers of the street designated by the street name is used as a measure of the selection probability of a street name.
5. The device (12) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the number and/or size of hotels and/or the number of offices and/or train stations and/or airports in the vicinity and/or within the area designated by the name is used as a measure for the selection probability.
6. The device (12) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the input unit (32) contains input elements which are operated multiple times in succession without operating other input elements to enter a character assigned to the input element .
7. The device (12) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the input unit (32) contains at least one input element (34 to 40), which is operated in order to select a character to be entered or a name from a list of names, and the input unit contains at least one additional input element (52) using which the selection of a character or of a name is confirmed.
8. The device (12) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the sorting criterion is selectable, the names being sorted alphabetically preferably according to a different sorting criterion.
9. A navigation system (12), for motor vehicles in particular, characterized by a device (32, 44) for entering names for geographic information according to one of the preceding claims.